Pre-Independence:

Gallantry Award	Monetary Allowance (Rs.)
(i) Victoria Cross:	
(a) Officers/JCOs	80/- P.m.
(b) Other Ranks (In addition to it, 100 Pound Sterling per annum is paid by the British Government)	40/- P.m.
(ii) Indian Order of Merit	350/- P.m.
(iii) Indian Order of Merit Class I	300/- P.m.
(iv) Indian Order of merit Class II	200/- P.m.
(v) Distinguished Service Cross	200/- P.m.
(vi) Military Cross	200/- P.m.
(vii) Distinguished Flying Cross	200/- P.m.
(viii) Conspicuous Gallantry Medal	200/- P.m.
(ix) Military Medal	90/- P.m.
(x) Indian Distinguished Service Medal	70/- P.m.
(xi) Distinguished Flying Medal	50/- P.m.

Reservation for women in elections to Cantonment Boards

2979. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would conduct elections to Cantonment Boards in India;

(b) if so, when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would provide women reservations in all Cantonment Boards before conducting the elections to all Cantonment Boards in India;

(e) whether Government would nominate peoples' representative to all Cantonment Boards in India, pending elections;

(f) whether Government would increase the number of ward members under every Cantonment Board, based on the latest census figures;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive Bill, Cantonment Bill, 2003, has been introduced in Parliament and is presently with Standing Committee on Defence. Elections as per law will be conducted when the Bill is passed.

(d) Provisions for the reservation for women have been made in the Cantonments Bill, 2003, presently being examined by the Standing Committee on Defence and accordingly seats for women will be reserved while holding elections to Cantonment Boards as per provisions of law.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h) There is no provision either under the existing Cantonment Act, 1924, or in the new Cantonments Bill, 2003, to increase the members of every Cantonment Board based on the last census figures.

Financial aid by MOD for gauge conversion in Bihar

2980. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of financial assistance to be provided by the Ministry of Defence for gauge conversion of Sakari-Jhanjharpur-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Lokha railway track in Madhubani district of Bihar;

(b) whether the then Defence Minister had announced this during the foundation stone ceremony in Jhanjharpur before Lok Sabha election;

(c) if so, the latest position in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this direction?